

REMARKS

By this Amendment claim 30 has been amended to better define the invention, claim 37 has been correspondingly amended, and new claims 41 and 42 have been added to define the flexible diaphragm as being concave (see specification at page 3, line 28 to page 4, line 1). Entry is requested.

In the outstanding Office Action the examiner has rejected claims 30-35 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Larsen, and he has rejected claims 36-40 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Larsen in view of Carlisle et al.

The inventors assert that these rejections must be withdrawn.

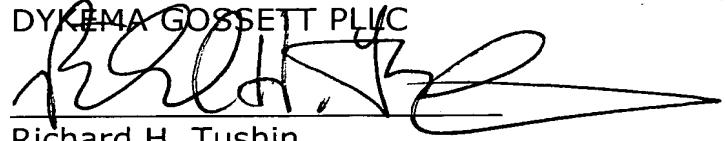
Larsen discloses an internally piloted dome-loaded regulator which includes a pilot valve member 33 movable in pilot bore B, the pilot valve member including an upper end portion which abuts a diaphragm 37 backed by diaphragm plate 43. The diaphragm plate can move upwardly until a rim thereof abuts a circumferential ledge (not labeled) in regulator cap 41. However, there is no disclosure of a flexible diaphragm which can move upwardly farther than needed to close the pilot bore B and thereby provide a compensating volume for fluid medium back flowing from outlet 17. And nothing in Carlisle et al. would supply a teaching of constructing the regulator of Larsen in this way.

The examiner's prior art rejections should be withdrawn and the application allowed.

Respectfully submitted,

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